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Frederick MD 21701

February 26, 1979

Mr. William Greider
Editor, Outlook
The Washington Post
1150 - 15th St. NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Greider:

Your in-house expert on political assassinations, George Lardner, once accused me of defending the FBI. After reading the lead article in Outlook of Sunday, February 25, I must defend the "mob." Ugh!

I cannot defend the Post or any editor who failed to ask for substantiation of the allegations, which cannot be provided, or did not collapse in anguish over this quotation from the lead:

"Beyond the mechanics of what happened in Dealey Plaza we are now confronted with larger questions," which turn out to be "of a plausible conspiracy," the "mob" did the dirty deed.

Without the "mechanics of what happened in Dealey Plaza" there is no basis for any responsible theorizing about conspiracies. Only the irresponsibles want to or must get "beyond" the known facts of the crime.

Your nonexpert authors, whose credentials come from wild theorizing and the ripping-off of the minds and pockets of a college generation, seek to circumvent nonexistent evidence with a new McCarthyism, guilt by nonassociation. They prove and can prove no association so they substitute a combination of misinterpretation of the work of others and fabrications of their own.

In fact, there is no connection between Lee Harvey Oswald and Carlos Marcello. There is not even reasonable basis for suspicion in this overwritten exploration of the limits of unfactuality. What is palmed off as an Oswald-Marcello connection is the meaningless allegation that an uncle with whom Oswald had virtually no association "had to know about Carlos Marcello." Who didn't?

They do not even conjecture a connection between Ferrie and the crime.

On the rare occasions of pretended factuality, the authors falsify and fabricate. Take their embellishment of my 1967 work: "Oswald and Ferrie both occupied offices in the small building" in August 1963 when it housed "the head of anti-Castro activity throughout that region."

This is total fabrication.

There was no significant anti-Castro activity in the area at that time.

Neither Oswald nor Ferrie had an office there - ever. On one piece of literature Oswald stamped that address. Ferrie was an occasional visitor and occasional employee of the one who had an office there, no more. The organization allegedly "heading" all this, the Cuban Revolutionary Council, was not organized by Tony Varona but by the CIA. CIA financing ended in April 1963, when the CRC virtually ceased to exist in New Orleans and elsewhere.

If one must weave conspiracy theories, as I do not but can't avoid contamination from those who do, reasonable people intending honesty must begin with these so-called "mechanics," the known fact of the crime. If Oswald was not a lone assassin, then there must be an established connection of others with the crime. If Oswald was framed, only those in a position to frame him could have been the conspirators or co-conspirators.

The article is not even garbage. Garbage can be put to some use, as fertilizer. The article is disinformation, typical of the authors and their associates.

There is no fact or reasonable theorizing based on fact in it.

It is difficult to imagine how the Post could give this prominence to such irresponsibility without demanding some proof or making a minimal check. It is disappointing that when devoting space to what involves the functioning and integrity of our basic institutions, what ought not be regarded as a whodunit, the Post becomes an agency of misinformation and disinformation. Many people still suffer the pain of the crime and the disenchantment of an inadequate and inherently unacceptable official explanation. Misleading them hurts and disenchants even more. This is what you have done.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg